

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09463 231449Z

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ACTION H-03

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R 231426Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0642

LIMITED OFFICIAL USET TEL AVIV 9463

CODEL STRATTON

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (STRATTON SLMUEL)

SUBJ: CODEL STRATTON

1. CODEL STRATTON WITH 22 CONGRESSMEN, 2 STAFF AIDES AND 4 MILITARY ESCORT OFFICERS WERE IN ISRAEL FROM NOV 17-21, 1973. THE PART DEPARTED ATHENS A DAY EARLY BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCE THERE. WE RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE THAT THEY WOULD COME TO TEL AVIV A DAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. CODEL WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY AMB, CONTROL OFFICER, HAIM ZADOK, CHAIRMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF KNESSET, AND AMB ASTAR OF THE MFA.

2. CODEL HAD A FULL AND VARIED SCHEDULE. NOV 18 WAS DEVOTED TO BRIEFINGS. AMB FIRST CHAIRED A WIDE-RANGING BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION WHICH LAST 2 - 1/2 HOURS. MINDEF DAYAN THEN HOSTED ONE HOUR RECEPTION IN HIS GARDEN ATTENDED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF MOD, REPS OF MFA AND SEVERAL IDF GENERALS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF STAFF ELAZAR AND CHIEF CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATOR YARIV. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY DETAILED AND CANDID BRIEFINGS ON WAR. BRIEFERS WERE COS ELAZAR, DIR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ZEIRA, NEGOTIATOR YARIV, IAF COR PELED AND NAVY CDR ADM TELEM. ALL BRIEFINGS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL RECEIVED BY ENTIRE GROUP. (HIGHLIGHTS OF MILITARY BRIEFINGS WILL
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09463 231449Z

BE REPORTED SEPTEL.) MOD HOSTED BUFFET DINNER IN

CONJUNCTION WITH BRIEFINGS.

3. MONDAY, NOV 19 WAS SPENT TOURING SOUTHERN FRONT. HIGH-LIGHTS OF TRIP INCLUDED VISIT TO UN SUEZ CITY CHECKPOINT, WHERE SUPPLIES WERE BEING LOADED FOR DELIVERY TO THIRD ARMY; VISIT TO KM 101 AND CHAT WITH YARIV (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WHO WAS BETWEEN MEETINGS WITH GEN GAMASY; VIEW (FROM WEST BANK) OF IDF BRIDGES ACROSS CANAL AND OF TANK BATTLE ZONE ON EAST BANK WHERE NEARLY 2000 DESTROYED VEHICLES LITTER A SIX SQ KM AREA. FINAL EVENT WAS LATE LUNCH AT FAID AIRBASE. MINDEF DAYAN AND NEGOTIATOR YARIV WERE BOTH PRESENT. AFTER LUNCH, DAYAN GAVE EXCELLENT PRESENTATION (REPORTED SEPTTEL) OF GOI POSITION ON THE DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE. BOTH DAYAN AND YARIV RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS.

4. FIRST ACTIVITY ON TUESDAY, NOV 20 WAS VISIT TO SMALL CAMP NORTH OF TEL AVIV WHERE IDF HAS ASSEMBLED DISPLAY OF CAPTURED SOVIET EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TANKS, ARTILLERY, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, BRIDGING EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, SAGGER ANTI-TANK MISSILES AND SA-7 (STRELLA) MISSILES. AFTER THIS DISPLAY, REMAINDER OF DAY SPENT IN JERUSALEM. CODEL MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH DIRGEN MINFIN (REPORTED BY MCMCON). THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ONE HOUR Q&A SESSION WITH PRIMIN MEIR (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

5. PARTY WERE GUESTS AT LUNCHEON IN KNESSET DINING ROOM HOSTED BY ZADOK AND KNESSET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AFTER LUNCH, SPEECHES WERE GIVEN BY LIKUD LEADER BEGIN AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ZADOK. FINAL EVENT ON JERUSALEM ITINERARY WAS A THREE HOUR TOUR OF JERUSALEM CONDUCTED BY MAYOR KILLEK. AMB KEATING HOSTED A BUFFET DINNER IN HIS RESIDENCE FOR CODEL STRATTON (AND CODEL ROSENTHAL, ET AL; SEE SEPTTEL) TUESDAY EVENING. MEMBERS OF KNESSET AND MOD OFFICIALS WERE AMONG GUESTS.

6. CODEL DEPARTED TEL AVIV FOR NICOSIA AND CAIRO AT 0815.", 21 NOV 73. REP STRATTON, AS SPOKESMAN FOR CODEL, HAD CONTACTS WITH PRESS BUT DELCINED DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

7. TO JUDGE FROM COMMENTS OF REP STRATTON AND OTHER MEMBERS
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 09463 231449Z

OF CODEL, VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL.
KEATING

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